

Kris Ornelas



Kris Ornelas is an educator, singer, composer, and keyboardist. He is the director of choirs at West Ranch High School and Rancho Pico Middle School. He is also a music professor at College of the Canyons where he directs the Voices of the Canyons Community Choir and the Just Jazz vocal ensemble. Mr. Ornelas holds a B.A. degree in Choral Music Education from Cal State Fullerton, and an M.M. degree in Choral Conducting from CSULA. Mr. Ornelas also has extensive experience as a performer and is adept in the vocal stylings of classical, rock, pop, gospel, musical theater, and jazz. He has performed with renowned artists such as Josh Groban, Andrea Bocelli, The Who, Debra Voigt, M83, Billy Idol, Greg Jaspers, Michelle Weir, and Rosanna Eckert in venues such as The Hollywood Bowl, The Greek Theater, Carnegie Hall, Segerstrom Concert Hall, Meng Concert Hall, and The Walt Disney Concert Hall. Mr. Ornelas studied vocal jazz with Professor Julie Lawson and Grammy award-winning artist, John Proulx. Mr. Ornelas has received several awards and recognitions both as a teacher and singer including the SCCEA Vocal Scholarship award (2009), the Gary Wright Memorial Education Scholarship (2012), the 1st place award for Solo Voice in the CSUF American Music Competition (2013), the “Outstanding Soloist” Award at the Reno Jazz Festival (2014). In 2018, Mr. Ornelas was the recipient of LAUSD’s Rookie Teacher of the Year Award.